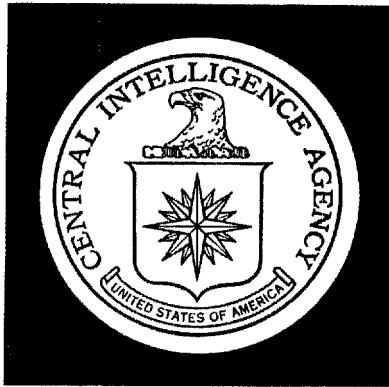
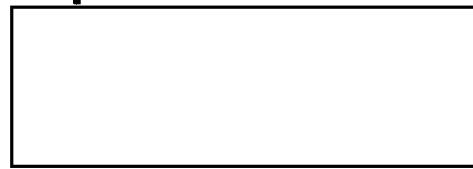


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Philippines: President Marcos has ordered an intensified effort against the pro-Communist Huk guerrillas.

[Marcos is said to have moved both because of his party's recent electoral successes and because of a Huk ambush last week. In an unusually rapid response, constabulary forces on 4 December engaged the Huk force allegedly responsible, killing the reputed number three man in the Huk hierarchy as well as six others.

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The drive against the Huks in their stronghold in central Luzon could well bog down as have similar efforts in the past. The Huks' pervasive influence over municipal officials, their grip on local rackets, and their appeal to disgruntled peasants make them a more serious threat than their relatively limited armed strength would suggest.]

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Japan: Prime Minister Sato is continuing his campaign to convince the Japanese people they should play a larger role in the "stabilization" of Asia.

In his speech at the opening of a special Diet session yesterday, he challenged his countrymen to assume the international responsibilities commensurate with Japan's position as one of the world's leading industrial powers. He said that during his tour of Southeast Asia in the past few months he received a strong impression that the countries of the area place "high expectations" on Japan's assistance to their economic development.

Sato also urged the Japanese to make greater defense efforts for their own security as well as the stability of Asia. Elaborating on a theme that has been prominent in his statements since his visit to Washington last month, Sato said that a greater willingness on the part of the Japanese people to shoulder these burdens would also help expedite the return of the Ryukyus to Japanese administration.

Sato undoubtedly recognizes that pressures for domestic investment and Japan's balance of payments problem will prevent any rapid growth in Japan's assistance to other nations. He cautioned that aid must be "within the limits that our national strength permits."

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USSR-Syria: Moscow's efforts to exert some restraining influence over the Syrians continue unavailing.

The communiqué issued at the conclusion of Syrian Prime Minister Zuayyin's recent visit to the Soviet Union failed even to mention the UN Security Council resolution on the Middle East, indicating that Moscow was not able to reduce Syrian opposition to it. Prior to the prime minister's visit, the Soviet press referred to the Syrians as "hotheads" because of Damascus' description of the Council meetings as part of the "imperialist aggression."

Moscow's efforts to induce Syria to improve its working relations with the other so-called "progressive" regimes in Egypt and Iraq have also failed. The Syrians remain opposed to the conference of Arab chiefs of state scheduled for this month.

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NOTES

Israel-Jordan: The continuing terrorist campaign against Israel and the West Bank may soon lead to an Israeli reprisal against Jordan. Israeli Defense Minister Dayan said on 30 November that, "The policy of terrorism is a two-way process... if the planting of mines continues, it is doubtful whether the Jordanian population can live in peace." Since then, a number of terrorist incidents have occurred, including the bombing of a train on 4 December.

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*Uruguay: President Oscar Gestido died suddenly this morning of a heart attack. His vice president, Jorge Pacheco Areco, will succeed him. Pacheco Areco is not expected to change Uruguay's pro-Western foreign policies and he will probably continue the economic reform program recently begun by Gestido. The new president, however, will have even greater difficulty than Gestido in controlling the factionalized ruling Colorado Party and harmful intraparty leadership fights are likely.

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